Howland Wood - Personal

Ramsden, Henry Alexander

[Jun kobayagawa Co. Stamp + Coin

1908

Yokohama, Japan]

MISION
DE LA
REPÚBLICA DE CUBA
EN EL
JAPÓN

Yokohama, 21st Decr: 1908.

Howland Wood Esq.
Brookline. Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I have to thank you for your kind letter of Nov: 1st., welcoming me to the ranks of the A. N. A, as well as doing me the honour in asking me to contribute to the Official Journal.

Your suggestion re: an article on the new Chinese struck coins would certainly be of interest, but I doubt very much if I possess the necessary ability to do honour to the Subject. I have for some time foreseen that something will have to be done to unify the subsidiary copper currency at present in circulation and if I am not mistaken, we will have a change tending to unification, before long, as the indiscriminate system of allowing each province, and, in some cases, even most officials in said province, to issue and mint their own coins, has resulted in confusion worse confounded and a heterogeneous result which even baffles the expert Chinese

Schroff.

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Schroff.

Looking at it, as is natural with me, from a numismatic point of view, I have anticipated the numerous varieties that would result and have lost no time in gathering together all the different specimens that I have been able to lay my hands on - and the result is that I have today in my cabinet over 150 pieces of the present provincial ten cash struck pieces - not to say anything of the 20, 5 and even 1 cash pieces - and as far as I can see, I am only on the edge of the fringe!

Anyhow I shall be only too willing to write something about them - but I would like to know what arrangements can be made about the illustrations - as you know that the interest of an article of this kind lies chiefly in what appeals to the eye. It is un-necessary for me to mention that I require no remuneration for my work.

As regards the Local Secretaryship, I shall be pleased and honoured to accept the position. I think that your indication "for the Far East" would be most appropriate. At the request of Int. Zerbe, our firm is sending by this same mail a biographical sketch

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which I hope will convey the required information.

I would esteem it a favour if you could give me the names and addresses of any of your colleagues interested in Chinese, Corean, Japanese Coins - Incidentally, I want this for the use of our firm.

I have written various brochures on numismatical subjects - all of them printed privately, with limited numbered copies - and am surprised that you should have in your possession a copy of my "Kwan Ei Coins" - I have exhausted most of my other publications with the exception of "Cuban Sugar Estate Tokens", a copy of which I am sending you by this same mail - please accept same from me.

I was once myself interested in Mohamadan Coins, but after my return from India, I sold out my collection and works on the subject. Dr Codrington is interested in this branch and I suppose you have his last work "Musalman Numismatics" - (1904).

I shall be only too pleased to help you decypher any coins with Chinese inscriptions. I have most works on Far Eastern Coins, both native and foreign, and as I can

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read chinese characters, they are invaluable to me.

I do not exactly know what kind of coins you wish me to send you selections, and I send a few by this mail to see if it is what you want. I certainly require no deposit from you. After you have looked them over (and retained any, if required) please keep the remainder over there until we decide what is to be done with them, as we have continually selections travelling from place to place in your country.

Your idea of publishing a book with all coins with chinese characters is a pretty big undertaking if everything is to be included. It is certainly a long felt want, and if I can be of any help, please count on me. Would you include charms, amulets, yosen, tokens etc? Would you limit yourself to coins actually known - and too, only to the genuine specimens? If you included the coins mentioned in the various foreign & native works, would it not be risky, as many descriptions are of coins existing only in the authors imagination? I should certainly like to hear more about the subject.

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Munro's, Villarets works on Japane Coins, they are about as good as any - Bramsen is not bad as far as it goes - Munro, who is an old friend, no longer collects - he is now deep in archeology -

Do you know Howorth, of Ashton-under-Lyne? He is quite an enthusiast for all copper coins, including Chinese etc.

I am making this letter too lonesome - but hope that I may often hear from you.

Wishing you the compliments of the Season,

I remain, yours very truly,

H. A. Ramsden

P. S. Could I have a list of the Members of the A.N.A sent to me - Is it safe to send to most of them selections, without any further reference?

Yale

JUN KOBAYAGAWA CO.,
Wholesale Exporters of Japanese Stamps
P.O.BOX 214 YOKOHAMA JAPAN.

Howland Wood Esq.
93 Perry St. Brookline - Mass -
U.S.A.

Coins sent for Selection

151.A.	Tempo Tane Sen - Hashiba Mint		0 50
151.B.	- Yd — Yd — Asakusa — "		0 75
152	Oval Rui Kui Islands		0 25
153	Akita Tsuba Sen		0 50
154	Round Rui Kui Islands		0 30
159	Bunkui Tane Sen		0 20
160	Yd — Yd — 宝		0 25
161	Hakodate Tane Sen		0 40
214	Japanese Yosen		1 80
218	Yd — id		0 60
219	Yd — id		0 45
220	Yd — id		0 50
221	Yd — id		0 25
222	Yd — id		0 45
223	Yd — id		0 50
224	Yd — id		0 40
225	Yd — id		0 20
226	Yd — id		0 65
227	Yd — id		0 45
228	Yamagata Koban - silver 8 mm m' —		2 75
229 to 234	Set of 6 coins of Hung Wu period - Superb specimens dug out of a grave - beautiful patina		2 30

Paid July 30
218
221
222
225
228
4.25

all the rest

22nd Deer: 1908.

Keating 5.30

for

JUN KOBAYAGAWA Co.
WHOLESALE EXPORTERS & RETAIL DEALERS IN
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P. O. Box 214. 34 Water St.
Yokohama, Japan.

H. A. RAMSDEN.
General and Foreign Manager.
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOC'Y LONDON.
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASS'ON
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOC'Y N. Y.
MEMBER OF THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES OF
TOKYO, OSAKA, YOKOHAMA, BINGO, ETC.

Via Vancouver.

JUN KOBAYACAWA
Japanese Manager.
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN PHILATIC SOCIETY.
MEMBER OF SOCIEDAD FILATELICA CATALANA, BARCELONA
MEMBER OF THE RIM PIO GO RAKU KAI, TOKYO.
MEMBER OF KO BUTSU SHO KAI, YOKOHAMA, ETC.

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Yokohama, 26 Dec. 08. 19....

Howland Wood Esq.
93 Perry St.
Brookline. Mass.

Dear Sir:-

In conformity with your letter to our Mr. Ramsden, regarding selections of certain Japanese Coins, we have pleasure in sending you herewith enclosed a proof, in white metal, of that curious piece made for Mito. This is the first time we have come across a proof of this coin in this metal, which may be considered quite a rarity.

Our Mr. Ramsden while in China a few weeks ago managed to procure a copy of the work " Ku Ch'uan Hui" in sixteen volumes (古泉匯) and have today sent it by Book Post for your approval. This work isn now not so seldom met with as before, and we send it to you as the illustrations accompany every coin mentioned in the work, and makes it a handy refe ence for persons not acquainted with Chinese characters. The price for the sixteen volumes is $ 7.75.

Should you not require any of the above, please retain there until we can send notice as to what is to be done with them, as we often have several customers in your country who have with us standing orders & to whom we could send them on.

We would esteem it a favour if you could give us any information regardibg Mr. Chas. W. Stutesman, of Peru, Indiana, who claims to be a member of the A.N.A. He wants certain things sent on approval.

We are also to advise that, together with the copy of the Cuban Sugar Estate tokens, there goes a small Monograph on Mr. Ramsden's collection. With the compliments of the season,

we remain, yours truly,

Jun Kobayagawa